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RHUS COTINOIDES, Nutt.

BY S. B. BUCKLEY, PH. D.

This sumac was discovered by Nuttall, in the autumn of 1819, on the Grand, a large tributary of the Arkansas River, and within the limits of the present Indian Territory. It was on high broken rocky banks at a place then known as the "Eagle's Nest." It grew there only as a shrub, and was not again found by Nuttall. He gives a description of it, with a plate, at p. 71, vol. ii, of his addition to Michaux's "North American Sylva." He there calls it *Cotinus Americana*. Nuttall's specimens were in fruit only.

I found this same *Rhus* on the 6th of April, 1842, in descending from the table lands of North Alabama to the Tennessee River, on the Huntsville road. Here were large shrubs of it growing in clumps from 8 to 10 feet high. They were in fruit and strikingly beautiful. I collected many specimens of them

Soon after, I came to the river and staid all night at a Mr. Chun's. Next morning, I crossed at "Ditto's Landing," and went on the Madison turnpike to Huntsville, nine miles distant. After dinner, I went twelve miles from Huntsville to a Mr. Bailee's, in Madison County, Alabama, on the road to Winchester, Tennessee, via Salem. From Mr. Bailee's house I walked up to the top of a low mountain to get specimens. Near its base and on its sides, in wooded ravines, I saw several trees of *R. cotinoides* in flower, and with larger leaves than those seen before south of the Tennessee River. These trees were about 38 feet high and from 8 to 12 inches in diameter, with trunks and larger limbs coated with light gray and deeply-furrowed bark resembling the bark of the larger trees of the common sassafras (*S. officinale*).

I climbed a tree to obtain specimens. The branches were brittle, and when broken emitted a yellowish sap, the odor of which was highly aromatic; to me very unpleasant.

This sumac, when in fruit, resembles the common Venetian sumac (*Rhus cotinus*), as is indicated by its specific name. It must be very local in its *habitats*, and also very rare. I think it has not been found elsewhere than in the Indian Territory and North Alabama.

In Chapman's "Flora of the Southern States," p. 70, it is stated that I found it in the interior of Alabama. Dr. Chapman was led into this error from our correspondence and exchange of plants when I was living in Wilcox County, Alabama.